

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 299

To establish a Commission on Environment and Development.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1993

Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. BEILENSEN, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. HUGHES, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. BLACKWELL, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. STUDDS, and Mr. ACKERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish a Commission on Environment and  
Development.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

4       There is established a commission to be known as the  
5       Commission on Environment and Development (herein-  
6       after in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

7       **SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

9               (1) monitor the actions of the signatories to  
10       documents of the United Nations Conference on En-

1 vironment and Development that reflect compliance  
2 with or violation of the goals of—

3 (A) the Articles of Agenda 21 of the Unit-  
4 ed Nations Conference on Environment and De-  
5 velopment,

6 (B) the Statement of Principles on the  
7 Maintenance, Conservation, and Development of  
8 All Forests,

9 (C) the United Nations Framework Con-  
10 vention on Climate Change, and

11 (D) the Convention on Biological Diversity;

12 (2) monitor and encourage the development of  
13 programs and activities by the United States Gov-  
14 ernment and private organization with a view toward  
15 advancing the objectives of the United Nations Con-  
16 ference on Environment and Development; and

17 (3) review reports submitted by countries to the  
18 United Nations Commission on Sustainable Develop-  
19 ment, including those submitted by the United  
20 States.

21 (b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out its  
22 functions, the Commission shall consult with and draw  
23 upon the expertise of United States and foreign non-  
24 governmental organizations, citizens' groups, and other  
25 public and private bodies concerned with international and

1 national environmental and sustainable development is-  
2 sues.

3 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be com-  
5 posed of 11 members as follows:

6 (1) Four Members of the House of Representa-  
7 tives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives. Two members shall be selected from  
9 the majority party and two shall be selected, after  
10 consultation with the minority leader of the House,  
11 from the principal minority party.

12 (2) Four Members of the Senate appointed by  
13 the President of the Senate. Two members shall be  
14 selected from the majority party and two shall be se-  
15 lected, after consultation with the minority leader of  
16 the Senate, from the minority party.

17 (3) The Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans  
18 and International Environmental and Scientific Af-  
19 fairs.

20 (4) The Administrator of the Environmental  
21 Protection Agency.

22 (5) The Chairman of the Council on Environ-  
23 mental Quality.

24 (b) CHAIR AND COCHAIR.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Chair and  
2           a Cochair of the Commission.

3           (2) APPOINTMENT.—(A) At the beginning of  
4           each odd-numbered Congress, the Speaker of the  
5           House of Representatives shall designate one of the  
6           House Members as Chair of the Commission. At the  
7           beginning of each even-numbered Congress, the  
8           President of the Senate, on the recommendation of  
9           the majority leader, shall designate one of the Sen-  
10          ate Members as Chair of the Commission.

11          (B) At the beginning of each odd-numbered  
12          Congress, the President of the Senate, on the rec-  
13          ommendation of the majority leader, shall designate  
14          one of the Senate Members as Cochair of the Com-  
15          mission. At the beginning of each even-numbered  
16          Congress, the Speaker of the House of Representa-  
17          tives shall designate one of the House Members as  
18          Cochair of the Commission.

19   **SEC. 4. REPORTS TO AND BY THE COMMISSION.**

20          (a) REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION.—In order to as-  
21          sist the Commission in carrying out its duties, the Presi-  
22          dent shall submit to the Commission semiannual reports  
23          which shall include—

24                (1) a detailed survey of actions by signatories  
25                of documents of the United Nations Conference on

1 Environment and Development that reflect compli-  
2 ance with or violation of the goals of those docu-  
3 ments; and

4 (2) a listing and description of present or  
5 planned programs and activities of the appropriate  
6 agencies of the executive branch advancing the ob-  
7 jectives of the United Nations Conference on Envi-  
8 ronment and Development.

9 (b) REPORTS BY THE COMMISSION.—The Commis-  
10 sion shall report to the House of Representatives and the  
11 Senate on a periodic basis with respect to the matters de-  
12 scribed in section 2(a), and shall provide information to  
13 Members of the House of Representatives and Senate as  
14 requested.

15 **SEC. 5. INVESTIGATIVE POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

16 In carrying out this Act, the Commission may re-  
17 quire, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testi-  
18 mony of such witnesses and the production of such books,  
19 records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and doc-  
20 uments as it deems necessary. Subpoenas may be issued  
21 over the signature of the Chair of the Commission or such  
22 other member of the Commission as the Chair may des-  
23 ignate. The Chair of the Commission, or any member des-  
24 igned by the Chair, may administer oaths to any wit-  
25 ness.

1 **SEC. 6. STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.**

2       The Commission may employ individuals for its staff,  
3 who shall be considered to be congressional employees (as  
4 defined in section 2107 of title 5, United States Code)  
5 for purposes of pay and other employment benefits, rights,  
6 and privileges and for all other purposes.

7 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8       To carry out this Act, there is authorized to be appro-  
9 priated to the Commission for each fiscal year such sums  
10 as may be necessary, which are authorized to remain avail-  
11 able until expended.

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